

APPROVED FOR RELEASE ☐
DATE: 11-29-2011

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PRIORITY

FRP:

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MESSAGE

89 2080264 ASP

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TOT: 080615Z MAR 89

DIRECTOR 531983

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BRIEF 080615Z DIRECTOR 531983
TO: PRIORITY EAST ASIA BRIEF

OUTGOING
MESSAGE

SUBJECT: EAST ASIA BRIEF OCPAS EA 89-054 FOR 08 MARCH 1989

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS.

ITEMS

1. CHINA: MARTIAL LAW IMPOSED IN TIBET ☐

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MARTIAL LAW, IMPOSED IN LHASA YESTERDAY, MAY QUELL PROTESTS THROUGH THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1959 TIBETAN UPRISING THIS FRIDAY. ALL MEETINGS, PARADES, AND PETITIONS ARE BANNED; ALL VEHICLES SUBJECT TO SECURITY CHECKS, AND FOREIGNERS MUST HAVE SPECIAL PERMISSION TO REMAIN IN THE CITY. A BEIJING-CONTROLLED HONG KONG NEWSPAPER CLAIMS THE PROTESTS HAVE FOREIGN SUPPORT AND CRITICIZES FOREIGNERS, "INCLUDING A SMALL NUMBER OF AMERICAN POLITICIANS," FOR SUPPORTING CALLS FOR TIBETAN INDEPENDENCE. ☐

COMMENT: BEIJING'S TOUGH RESPONSE AND INDIRECT CRITICISM OF THE US CONGRESS SUGGEST IT WILL USE WHATEVER FORCE IS NECESSARY TO SUPPRESS THE UNREST REGARDLESS OF INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM. CHINA NONETHELESS REMAINS AT A LOSS ON HOW TO DEFUSE UNDERLYING ETHNIC TENSIONS. UNWILLING TO NEGOTIATE SOME FORM OF TIBETAN AUTONOMY WITH THE DALAI LAMA, CHINESE LEADERS MAY HOPE TOUGHER MEASURES WILL BUY TIME FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT POLICIES TO WEAKEN INDEPENDENCE SENTIMENT GRADUALLY. THIS STRATEGY IS LIKELY TO FAIL, HOWEVER, AND UNREST IS

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ALMOST CERTAIN TO RECUR OVER THE LONGER TERM.

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END OF MESSAGE

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